Pol 14-Viet S (1547)

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET 641

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-06 NSAE-00 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 PM-06
NSC-10 SS-14 UPW-01 RSR-01 /058 W
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O 201035Z AUG 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8950

S E C R E T SAIGON 13407

SUBJ: PRESS QUERIES ABOUT MINH WITHDRAWAL

REF: STATE 152953

1. OUR RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES ABOUT THE MINH WITHDRAWAL, EVEN IN THE FACE OF MOUNTING PRESSURES FROMCORRESPONDENTS, HAS SO FAR BEEN INTENTIONALLY LIMITED.

2. OUR RELEASE TO THE PRESS THIS MORNING WAS AS FOLLOWS: QTE WE REGRET THAT GENERAL MINH HAS WITHDRAWN AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM. BEYOND THAT, WE HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT. UNQTE

3. AT THE PRESENT MOMENT, WE SEE NO CLEAR ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED BY GOING BEYOND THISPOINT. FURTHER COMMENT NOW RISKS EMBROILING US UNNECESSARILY IN PUBLIC DISPUTE AND COULD CONCEIV-ABLY AFFECT OUR FREEDOM OF ACTION IN THE FUTURE.

4. WE SUGGEST DEPT FOR TIME BEING MIGHT REITERATE STATEMENT IN PARA 2 ABOVE AND ADD SOMETHING ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINE: QTE OUR POSITION REMAINS THAT OF FAVORING A FAIR AND HONEST ELECTION WHICH WILL LEAD TO A CHOICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIET-NAM. UNQTE
BUNKER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Zuber DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED & RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____